Chapter 54

WHY...?

THE CULTURE FESTIVAL IS SOON, ISN'T IT?

WHY DON'T YOU GET SOME EARRINGS, KAEDE?

PLUS, HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU THAT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS DON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GONNA DO MUCH...

BECAUSE THIS IS GOING TO BE A BIG MOMENT FOR YOU.

...I'M NOT GONNA GET ANY EARRINGS.

WHAT~~

IT DID! WHY ARE YOU SO AGAINST IT~~

YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF!

ONE TIME I DYED MY HAIR BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO, BUT IT DIDN'T TURN OUT WELL AT ALL...

OR SOMEONE HANDSOME LIKE AZUMA-KUN.

THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE SOMEONE OUTGOING LIKE SOMEYA-SAN,

YEAR 3 CLASS B

IF A PERSON LOOKED GOOD IN DYED HAIR OR EARRINGS,

WEARING THEM WOULD MAKE IT EVEN HARDER FOR ME TO KEEP MY HEAD HELD UP HIGH.

EARRINGS WOULDN'T MATCH ME AT ALL...

MIE-SAN.

PLEASE LIFT YOUR HEAD!

P-

I- I SEE ...

I DROPPED SOME-THING,

AND SINCE IT WAS SMALL I'M HAVING TROUBLE FINDING IT.

W- W- WHAT'S WRONG!? DID SOME-THING HAPPEN ?!

GOOD MORNING, KOMURA-KUN.

AH.

UM...

WHAT DID YOU DROP?

Sparkle

NESS...

FOUND IT.

AH, THANK GOOD—

...I MUST'VE BEEN MISTAKEN...

I'VE NEVER SEEN MIE-SAN WEAR EARRINGS BEFORE.

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.

NO WOR-RIES...

IT'S NOT THAT IT WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD ON HER, IT'S JUST...

THERE'S NO WAY...

...EH... MAYBE SHE'S WEARING THEM RIGHT NOW?

AH... DO YOU WANT TO...

READ MY TEXTBOOK TOGETHER?

Yep.

THANK YOU.

ALL RIGHT. TAKE YOUR SEATS, EVERY-ONE.

JUMP

WHAT'S WITH THIS SENSE OF GUILTY PLEASURE?

MIE-SAN...

WEARING EARRINGS ...

Glare...

CLOSE...

IT LOOKS LIKE... SHE'S NOT WEARING THEM.

I GUESS I REALLY WAS MISTAKEN ...?

OR MAYBE I JUST CAN'T SEE IT WELL...?

HEY, ABOUT THIS PART—

AH, YOU CAN'T SEE THE TEXTBOOK, CAN YOU?

SORRY.

I'M... SORRY TOO...

TRULY SORRY...

MY IMAGE OF MIE-SAN IS REALLY BIASED...

EVEN IF SHE WERE TO WEAR EARRINGS, IT SHOULDN'T BE ANYTHING SURPRISING...

LINEN ROOM

AN EARRING.

I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T GET MY MIND OFF OF THIS... I NEED TO CALM DOWN.

KOMURA-KUN, LOOK AT THIS.

IT'S JUST A BEAD.

HUH ?!

AH... OH, RIGHT ...

AH...

...SO YOU DROPPED A BEAD THIS MORNING?

YEAH.

Phew...

I DON'T WEAR EARRINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU USING THEM FOR...?

EYES.

AH, EYES ...

WAIT, EYES ...?

THIS.

I'M GONNA EXHIBIT THIS IN THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.

A FLAPJACK OCTOPUS, HUH...

MIE-SAN LIKES A LOT OF THINGS,
AND HAS A WILD IMAGI-NATION.
I GUESS THAT'S WHY SHE STANDS OUT TO ME.

IT'S PRETTY CUTE ALREADY,
BUT I THINK IT'LL BE EVEN MORE CUTE ONCE I ADD EYES TO IT.

Fidget
Fidget
3B PINCUSION KOMURA
Conceptual Image
ON THE OTHER HAND, I'M JUST MAKING A BALL OUT OF FELT AND COTTON.
DYED HAIR AND EARRINGS WOULDN'T MATCH AN EMPTY AND BORING PERSON LIKE ME...

I shouldn't?

I THINK I CAN MANAGE.

I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD USE NEEDLES TODAY...

B... BUT SOMETHING MIGHT HAPPEN...

SHARP...

MI-

MIE-SAN, HOLD ON...

EH?

I DON'T THINK YOU CAN USE IT AS A PIERCER...

Don't put it so close to your face...

YOU'RE RIGHT.

STARE...

IF I CAN USE THIS NEEDLE TO GIVE MYSELF PIERCINGS.

...I WONDER...

AH, BUT... I KNOW THAT THEY WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME AT ALL, THOUGH...

Y... YEAH

MY FAMILY OFTEN ENCOU-RAGES ME TO GET EARRINGS... BUT IT'S SCARY.

I THINK EARRINGS ARE PRETTY CUTE,

BUT I'M AFRAID OF OPENING UP A HOLE IN MY EARS.

CLOSE

Tap

EH?!

WHA-

SQUISH

EH?

AH?

IT MIGHT LOOK COOL ON YOU.

RIGHT...

YEAH.

EH?

AH...

RIGHT.

Ah...

I ACTUALLY CAN'T SEE WELL,

SO I CAN'T BE SURE.

I WON'T LOOK COOL, I WON'T LOOK COOL...
IT WON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME, IT WON'T LOOK GOOD ON ME...
Instant Pierc
Fast Earrings Create
a Hole
Instant Piercer
Instant Piercer
CALM DOWN, CALM DOWN...!

I FEEL LIKE I HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO DO ANYTHING IN THE WORLD...
I CAN'T BELIEVE MYSELF...
BECAUSE OF MIE-SAN'S WORDS,